

We Are Many, We Are One

Theme Song of the "Sounding the Bamboo"

♩ = 110 with Spirit

I

G Am

1. We are ma - ny, we are one,
 2. Dance with God, Sound the bam - boo,
 3. Let's be ma - ny, let's be one,

II

1. We are ma - ny, we are
 2. Dance with God, Sound the
 3. Let's be ma - ny, let's be

D G

Born in this land or from a - far;
 Let each voice be heard and hon - oured;
 Till Christ comes and work is done;

one, Born in this land or from
 bam - boo, Let each voice be heard and
 one, Till Christ comes and work

Words: Wenh-In Ng 1998
 Music: Amy Yea Kyong Lee 1998

SB-THEME
Irregular

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a 'G' chord above it and an 'Am' chord above the end. The lyrics are: 'We are ma - ny, we are one, Dance with God, Sound the bam - boo, Let's be ma - ny, let's be one,'

We are ma - ny, we are one,
 Dance with God, Sound the bam - boo,
 Let's be ma - ny, let's be one,

a - far; we are ma - ny, we are
 hon - oured; Dance with God, Sound the
 is done; Let's be ma - ny, let's be

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a 'D' chord above it and a 'G' chord above the end. The lyrics are: 'Born in this land or from a - far; Let each voice be heard and hon - oured; Till Christ comes and work is done; one, bam - boo, one, Born in this land or from heard and work Till Christ comes and work'

Born in this land or from a - far;
 Let each voice be heard and hon - oured;
 Till Christ comes and work is done;

one, Bam - boo, one, Born in this land or from
 Let each voice be heard and work
 Till Christ comes and work

Em C Am⁹

Young in age or full of years,
 Hok-mah Wis-dom So-phi-a Christ
 Stand-ing in sol-i-dar-i-ty

a - far;
 hon - oured;
 is done;

D⁷ D G C D⁷ G

Strong in joy or deep in tears.
 R-uah Spir-it wind and Qi/Ki.
 Cel-e-brat-ing Ju-bi-lee.

Sharing “We Are Many, We Are One”

This original composition by Amy Lee was produced for the theme of the third biennial conference of ethnic minority women of The United Church of Canada known as Sounding the Bamboo. In response to Amy’s request for more relevant and contextual words, Wenh-In Ng wrote the original version for Sounding the Bamboo IV, held at Manoir d’Youville in Chateaugay, Quebec, in 1999, on the eve of the Jubilee year, with its theme “Dancing with God/Danser avec Dieu.”

In 2006 at the 39th General Council, the United Church made its commitment to becoming an intercultural church. Wenh-In’s new words (version 2, which follows) to mirror the new aspirations of the denomination were first introduced by Amy at the United Church’s first Behold! One Another: An Intercultural Conference in fall 2008. Since then, Amy has used this version at the Asian Canadian Mission Consultation as well as at the 8th Sounding the Bamboo conference in Winnipeg (both in 2010), and at More Franchises at Emmanuel College in 2012.

Amy and Wenh-In are gratified that their creations are being shared with the wider church and community for Asian Heritage Month in May 2013. They wish to point out that the vision of “We Are Many, We Are One” is meant to apply to *all* aspects of diversity and oneness in both the United Church and in Canada.

Prepared for the posting of Asian Heritage Month materials on the website of The United Church of Canada, May 2013

Wenh-In Ng and Amy Lee, Toronto, February 11, 2013

WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE (Version II: Intercultural)

We are many, we are one,
born in this land, or far from afar;
young in age, or full of years,
steeped in joy or deep in tears.

Come meet Christ in one another,
let each gift be shared and honoured:
language, culture, home, diaspora –
each so rich, enriching others.

Let's be many, let's be one;
gathered here, or scattered hence:
heav'n and earth and humanity
celebrating diversity.

Words: Greer Anne Wenh-In Ng

September 27/28, 2008, Toronto, for the 25th Annual Ethnic Rally of Toronto
Conference, The United Church of Canada.

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